

CONFIDENTIAL

DD/I (Admin)

30 December 1955

ATTENTION:

Deputy Assistant Director, OBI

Employee Suggestion Number 2526

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1. An organizational manual of the type proposed might serve as a useful reference aid in certain specialized activities as indicated by comments from other offices in CIA. However, the costs involved in producing such a manual would be considerable, and it is our opinion that a project of such obvious magnitude would be warranted only if there is a government-wide need for a publication of this nature. Our experience in the NIS Program leads to the belief that there is no such government-wide requirement. In our judgment the available research aids and services dealing with the subject, while probably not as convenient to use as a manual would be, are still satisfactorily fulfilling the needs of the Intelligence Community.

2. The NIS Section 52 (Structure of the Government) and the NIS [redacted] unit now treat with governmental organizations to the extent considered appropriate for the NIS Program, which is charged specifically by NSC directive with production of concise digests of the basic intelligence required by the government. Requirements in this field have been under continuous examination in the NIS Program and there has been no indication of a need for fuller coverage of governmental organizations in the NIS, nor has a need for a detailed treatment of the subject in a separate supplement, or manual as is now being proposed, ever before come to the attention of this office.

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3. Further, the maintenance of a publication carrying a breakdown of governmental organizations to the depth suggested would be terrifically costly, and of highly questionable value because of unavoidable time lag in producing change notices and distributing them to holders of the manual. The Chief, Special Register, OCR, points out that the frequent changes in the Soviet pattern of subordination caused that office to long ago abandon any effort to crystallize such data beyond their classification needs. Since this action was found necessary in an operation where the information is under machine control as it is in the Special Register, it would seem to be completely infeasible to attempt to keep a published manual of this type up to date

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with supplements as proposed by the suggestor. This is not attempted even in the U. S. Government Organization Manual which is produced by the Federal Government.

4. However desirable a manual as proposed might be, it is the opinion of this office that the government would not benefit from the proposed project to an extent which would justify the expenditure of the time, effort and money involved.

R. H. BOBERG